AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A treatment device assembly for an endoscopic surgical instrument having a housing and being provided with a conduit comprising:

a) a needle having a radio frequency electrode with a hollow core and an insulating layer surrounding a portion of the electrode proximate a distal end of the needle;

b) a cannula for slidably receiving said needle so as to guide said needle;

c) a control mechanism for extending and retracting said needle; and

d) means for interlocking said assembly to the housing of said endoscopic surgical instrument so as to extend said needle and cannula through the conduit of said endoscopic surgical instrument.

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Claim 15. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in Claim 14 wherein said cannula includes a curvable surface for deflecting said needle at an angle from a primary axis of said needle.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in Claim 15 wherein said cannula has a bendable portion having a wire enclosed therein having a first end and a second end and said assembly further comprises a finger actuatable mechanism for tensioning said wire whereby when said wire is tensioned by an operator through operation of said finger actuatable mechanism, said bendable portion is angled away from a primary axis of said cannula and said needle ~~electrode~~ is deflected away from said primary axis.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in Claim 14 wherein said means for interlocking includes means for removably disposing the assembly within the housing whereby said needle and cannula can be slidably disposed in and removed from the conduit of said endoscopic surgical instrument.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in Claim 14 ~~18~~ further comprising a radio frequency generator for supplying RF energy to said electrode.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in Claim 19 further comprising an indifferent electrode coupled to said radio frequency generator.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in Claim 14 wherein

~~a) said needle is an RF electrode; and~~

~~b)~~ said assembly further comprises a radio frequency generator for supplying RF energy to said electrode for monopolar operation.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in Claim 21 wherein said cannula includes a curved surface for deflecting said electrode at a predetermined angle from a primary axis of said electrode.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A medical treatment device comprising an elongate probe member having proximal and distal extremities, the elongate probe member having a longitudinal axis and at least one passageway extending from the proximal extremity to the distal extremity, a guide cannula mounted in the at least one passageway of the elongate probe member and having proximal and distal extremities with the distal extremity of the guide cannula being in the vicinity of the distal extremity of the elongate probe member, the guide cannula having an opening in the distal extremity and a lumen extending from the proximal extremity to the opening in the distal extremity, a needle slidably disposed in the lumen of the guide cannula, the needle being in the form of a radio frequency electrode ~~tube~~ having an axial lumen extending therethrough with an insulating layer surrounding a portion of the electrode proximate a distal end of the electrode, and a control mechanism coupled to the proximal extremity of the elongate probe member and secured to the needle for advancing and retracting the needle relative to the guide cannula.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 24 wherein the distal extremity of the guide cannula is curvable for directing the needle sidewise of the longitudinal axis.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 24 wherein the distal extremity of the guide cannula is bendable, an additional control mechanism coupled to the proximal extremity of the elongate probe member for bending the distal extremity of the guide cannula.

Claim 27. (Canceled)

Claim 28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A device as in Claim 24 ~~29~~ further comprising a radio frequency generator for supplying radio frequency energy to the radio frequency electrode.